implementation were also conducted for all these organisations at New Delhi and Dehradun during 1995 & 1996.

(vii) Staff in National Parks and Sanctuaries are beign provided modern arms, wireless equipments and communication facilities to check poaching in the National Parks and Sactuaries.

(viii) Analogous to the Centre, the Stateshavealsobeenaskedtosetupco-ordination committee of all enforcement agencies so that there is effective co-operation to check poaching a control illegal trade.

Ganga Action Plan in U.P., Bihar and West Bengal

1417. KUMAR NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have review the progress made under Ganga Action Plan (GAP) by the States of UP, Bihar and West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of the review ;

(c) the details of short comings noticed and action proposed to accelerate the Ganga Action Plan, particularly in Bihar, and

(d) the details of action plan for 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The progress of the Ganga Action Plan is reviewed regularly at various levels in both Central and State Governments. These reviews reveal the following:

(i) The delay in the implementation of the Action Plan was mainly due to lack of experience with the State implementing agencies, delay inland acquisition, litigations and court cases, contractual problems and diversion of funds by the Governments of U.P. and Bihar.

(ii) Operation and maintenance of the assets created under the Action Plan in unsatisfactory in Bihar and to a large extent in U.P. However, it is satisfactory in West Bengal. The main reason for unsatisfactory Operation of assets in Bihar and U.P. is the inability of these State Governments to provide adequate funds for the purpose.

(iii) Erratic and poor availability of electricity for operating assets like pumping stations, sewage treatment plants and electric crematoria is also responsible for unsatisfactory operation and maintenance of assets in Bihar and U.P.

(iv) The conventional technologies adopted for sewage treatment under the Action Plan do not address fully to the microbial pollution in treated sewage. This results in the increase of coliform counts in the river water when such treated waste water is discharged therein.

On the basis of the progress reviewed, the corrective steps taken by the Government are:

(i) State Government have been asked to take advance action for land acquisition wherever applicable after which only the related schemes are approved. Release of Central grants and its utilisation by the State Governments is monitored more vigorously to minimize instance of diversion of funds.

(ii) Release of Central grants under the second phase of Ganga Action Plan to Bihar have been stopped tilla firm commitment from the State Government is available for providing adequate funds for operation and maintenance of the assets. The Central Pollution Control Board and the State Pollution Control Boards of Bihar

and U.P. have been directed to initiate action against the respective operating agencies which are defaulting in the operation of assets. The matter is being pursued with the State Governments of U.P. & Bihar regularly for adequate provision of funds for operation and maintenance of assets.

(iii) The State Governments have been asked to ensure continuous supply of electricity for assets through dedicated feeders wherever required.

(iv) To address the problem of mocrobialpollution ithasbeendecided to adopt land based technologies for sewage treatment wherever feasible. In cases where conventional technologies are to be used, it has been decided to utilise the treated waste water for irrigation purpose through out the year except during monsoons when it can be discharged into the river.

(d) During 1998-99, work will continue on completion of the present remaining seven schemes of the first phase of Ganga Action Plan as well as on the schemes approved under the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan.

Stay of the Ganga Action Plan by Allahabad High court

1418. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Allahabad High Court has stayed implementation of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) The Allahabad High Court had stayed implementation of Ganga Action Plan Phase II and directed the Ministry of Environment and Forests to constitute a Technical Committee to examine, scrutinize and approve the project on the ground that the work which was undertaken under Ganga Action Plan had been started without getting the project report prepared in consultation with a Committee comprising technical experts. This Order of the Hon'ble Allahabad High Court has been contested by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in the Supreme Court of India, who have stayed the above directive pending further orders.

उत्तरांचल के निवासियों को सुविधाएं

1419. **श्री मनोहर कांत ध्यानी** : क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री 10 जुलाई, 1998 को राज्य सभा में आतांराकित प्रश्न 2605 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) केन्द्र सरकार ने माननीय उच्चतम न्यायालय के निर्देशों की भावना के अनुसार उत्तरांचल के निवासियों को वास्ताविक व्यक्तिगत प्रयोग हेतु वन उत्पाद सम्बन्धी अधिकारों और रियायतों का लाभ देने तथा उनके वन संबंधी हकों की आवश्यकता की पूर्ति हेतु विभाग के लिए कोई मार्ग-निर्देशिका बनाई हैं; और

(ख) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा दिए गए निर्देश की अनुपालना में अपनी विस्तृत रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत कर दी हैं अगर हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है, यदि नहीं, तो इसके कारण क्या हैं?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री बाबू लाल मरांडी) : (क) माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायाल के दिनांक 23.1.1998 के आदेश तथा दिनांक 5.6.1998 के उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार के अनुरोध के अनुसरण में केन्द्र सरकार ने 31.7.98 को अपने लखनऊ स्थित क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय के माध्यम से पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों के वन मण्डलों में स्थानीय लोगों के वास्तविक निजी प्रयोग के लिए निर्धारित वन उत्पाद के संबंध में माननीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के दिनांक 23.1.1998 के उक्त आदेश में निहित निदेशों के अनुसार अधिकार तथा रियायतें प्राप्त करने के लिए राज्य वन विभाग को मंजूरी दे दी हैं।